

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace the after the title and before the section heading “Background” with the following paragraph.

This application is a continuation ~~divisional~~ application of co-pending U.S. patent application serial no. 10/116,571 filed 3 April 2002, the benefit of the filing date of which is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §120, and which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please add the following paragraphs between paragraph 14 and the section heading “Detailed Description”.

FIG. 9A is a cross-sectional view of a portion of a valve according to another embodiment of the invention that incorporates a plunger different than the plunger incorporated in the valve shown in FIGS. 4 and 5.

FIG. 9B is a plan view of the plunger shown in FIG. 9A.

FIG. 10A is a cross-sectional view of a portion of a valve according to yet another embodiment of the invention that incorporates a plunger different than the plunger incorporated in the valves shown in FIGS. 4, 5, 9A and 9B.

FIG. 10B is a plan view of the plunger shown in FIG. 10A.

Please replace paragraph 24 with the following paragraph.

Still referring to FIGS. 4 and 5, the plunger 76 moves within the cavity 72 to open and close the valve 58. In this and certain other embodiments, the plunger 76 is made of conventional stainless steel and includes a circular or substantially circular plate sized to slide within the cavity 72. The plunger 76 also includes a drain-tube-contact surface 80 that is flat or substantially flat. In other embodiments, the plunger 76 can be made of any desired material capable of providing enough rigidity to pinch the drain tube 52 closed when the plunger is in the closed position. Additionally or alternatively, the plunger 76 can be any

desired shape such as a triangle or square that permits the plunger 76 to slide within the cavity 72. Additionally or alternatively, the plunger 76 can also include a drain-tube-contact surface 80 that is contoured. For example, the drain-tube-contact surface 80 can include a concave portion, as shown in FIGS. 9A and 9B, that matches the bar's shape or the surface 80 can include a convex portion, as shown in FIGS. 10a and 10B, that further focuses the pinching force in the plunger 76.